

Claims:

1. A method of representing allocation of storage unit capacity within an audio/video (AV) recording device, comprising:
 - identifying a quantity of AV program data stored on said storage unit;
 - obtaining a storage schedule for new AV program data defined over a predetermined time period;
 - obtaining a deletion schedule for old AV program data defined over said predetermined time period; and
 - producing temporally dynamic indicia representative of allocation of said capacity of said storage unit over said predetermined time period in response to said quantity of AV program data, said storage schedule, and said deletion schedule.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - displaying a pictorial representation of said temporally dynamic indicia on a display device in communication with said AV recording device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of producing comprises:
 - (a) selecting a time;
 - (b) determining a storage configuration of said storage unit in response to said quantity of AV program data, said storage schedule, and said deletion schedule at said selected time;
 - (c) repeating said steps (a) and (b) to determine a plurality of storage configurations for a respective plurality of times; and
 - (d) combining said plurality of storage configurations to form said temporally dynamic indicia.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 - successively displaying pictorial representations of said plurality of storage configurations on a display device in communication with said AV recording device to define a graphical animation.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said graphical animation comprises a pie chart.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - modifying a recording configuration of said AV recording device in response to said temporally dynamic indicia; and
 - re-producing said temporally dynamic indicia in response to said modified recording configuration.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of modifying comprises at least of:
 - increasing compression ratio of an AV program stored on said storage unit; and
 - increasing compression ratio of an AV program scheduled for storage on said storage unit.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of modifying comprises:
 - deleting an AV program stored on said storage device.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of modifying comprises:
 - archiving an AV program stored on said storage device.
10. A computer readable carrier including program instructions that instruct a computer to perform a method of representing allocation of storage unit capacity within an audio/video (AV) recording device, comprising:
 - identifying a quantity of AV program data stored on said storage unit;
 - obtaining a storage schedule for new AV program data defined over a predetermined time period;
 - obtaining a deletion schedule for old AV program data defined over said predetermined time period; and
 - producing temporally dynamic indicia representative of allocation of said capacity of said storage unit over said predetermined time period in response to said quantity of AV program data, said storage schedule, and said deletion schedule.

11. The computer readable carrier of claim 10, further comprising:
displaying a pictorial representation of said temporally dynamic indicia on a display device in communication with said AV recording device.
12. The computer readable carrier of claim 11, wherein said pictorial representation is a pie chart.
13. The computer readable carrier of claim 10, further comprising:
modifying a recording configuration of said AV recording device in response to said temporally dynamic indicia; and
re-producing said temporally dynamic indicia in response to said modified recording configuration.
14. An apparatus for representing allocation of capacity of a storage unit within an audio/video (AV) recording device, comprising:
means for identifying a quantity of AV program data stored on said storage unit;
means for obtaining a storage schedule for new AV program data defined over a predetermined time period;
means for obtaining a deletion schedule for old AV program data defined over said predetermined time period; and
means for producing temporally dynamic indicia representative of allocation of said capacity of said storage unit over said predetermined time period in response to said quantity of AV program data, said storage schedule, and said deletion schedule.
15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
means for displaying a pictorial representation of said temporally dynamic indicia on a display device in communication with said AV recording device.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said pictorial representation is a pie chart.
17. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
 - means for modifying a recording configuration of said AV recording device in response to said temporally dynamic indicia; and
 - means for re-producing said temporally dynamic indicia in response to said modified recording configuration.
18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said means for modifying comprises at least of:
 - means for increasing compression ratio of an AV program stored on said storage unit; and
 - means for increasing compression ratio of an AV program scheduled for storage on said storage unit.
19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said means for modifying comprises:
 - means for deleting an AV program stored on said storage device.
20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said means for modifying comprises:
 - means for archiving an AV program stored on said storage device.